

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is being submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed December 21, 2004.

Claims 1-44 and 46-65 are pending in the application. Claims 32-44 are withdrawn from consideration. Claim 65 is allowed. Claims 9, 10, 12-28, 43-46, 49, 50, 52, 58-60 and 64 are objected to, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claims 1-8, 11, 29-31, 47, 48, 51, 53-57 and 61-63 are rejected.

With respect to Claims 1-31, Applicants have incorporated the limitations of dependent Claim 9 into independent Claim 1. In paragraph 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By incorporating the limitations of Claim 9 into independent Claim 1, Applicants now believe independent Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. In addition, Applicants believe dependent Claims 2-8 and 10-31 are also in condition for allowance.

With respect to Claims 43, 44 and 46, the Examiner has objected to these claims, but has stated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 43 is an independent claim, therefore, it would appear that Claim 43 should be allowed rather than objected to. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 43, 44 and 46 are in condition for allowance.

With respect to Claims 47-50, Applicants have amended independent Claim 47 to include the limitations of dependent Claim 49. The Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of Claim 49 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format to include the limitations of any base claim as well as any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants believe that Claim 47 is now in condition for allowance. Similarly, dependent Claims 48 and 50 are also in condition for allowance.

With respect to Claims 51-64, Applicants have amended Claim 51 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 64. The Examiner has stated that Claim 64 would be allowable if rewritten in

independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant believes independent Claim 51 is in condition for allowance. Applicants further believe that dependent Claims 52-63 are also in condition for allowance.

Applicants have added new dependent Claims 66-78 as dependent upon allowed Claim 65. The subject matter of these dependent claims is found in the currently pending dependent claims. These new claims do not add any new matter. Because independent Claim 65 is allowed, dependent Claims 66-78 are also in condition for allowance.

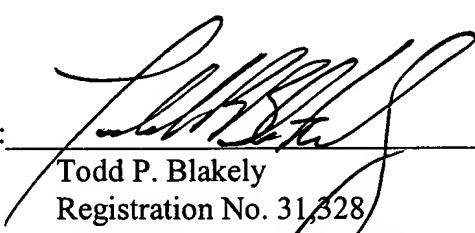
Applicants have further added new Claims 79-84. Independent Claim 79 contains the limitations of Claims 1, 11 and 23 as they existed prior to the present Amendment. The Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of Claim 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claim 23 depends from Claims 1 and 11. Accordingly, new Claim 79 is in condition for allowance. Similarly, dependent Claims 80-84, which do not add any new matter, are also in condition for allowance.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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